Message Text

SECRET

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54

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00

OMB-01 /046 W

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O 261128Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4663

INFO CINCPAC HONO HI IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CINCPACAF HONO HI

CINCSAC OFFUTT AFB

SECRETBANGKOK 9539

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MARR, TH

SUBJECT: U.S. FORCE REDUCTIONS IN THAILAND

REF: STATE 118765

- 1. WE CALLED ON SUPREME COMMAND CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN MAY 26 TO ADVISE HIM OF DRAWDOWNS CONTEMPLATED REFTEL AND DISCUSS NEXT STEPS.
- 2. KRIANGSAK HAD NO DIFFICULTY WITH PROPOSED DRAWDOWNS
 BUT FELT IT NECESSARY CONDUCT MEETING OF JOINT U.S. -THAI
 WORKING GROUP IN USUAL WAY TO FORMALIZE CONSULTATION. WE NOTED
 THAT KRIANGSAK IS DEPARTING FOR HONGKONG MAY 27 AND ASKED WHETHER HE
 WOULD AGREE PROCEED WITH WORKING GROUP MEETING WITH THAI SIDE TO
 BE CHAIRED BY HIS DEPUTY. HE DEMURRED, SAYING THAT HE
 WISHED TO CHAIR HIMSELF. HE RETURNS BANGKOK JUNE 1 AND
 HAS AGREED HOLD MEETING JUNE2.
- 3. KRIANGSAK WISHES GET MAXIMUM PUBLIC AFFAIRS MILEAGE OUT OF REDUCTION AND SUGGESTED MOVING F-111'S FROM SECRET

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KORAT TO UTAPAO AND CONDUCTING MEDIA VISIT THERE TO

RECORD DEPARTURE OF BOTH F-111'S AND B-52'S. HE FEELS THIS WOULD HAVE MAXIMUM PUBLIC IMPACT. WE TOLD HIM WE WOULD HAVE TO CHECK TO FIND OUT WHETHER THIS WOULD POSE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS.

- 4. AS TO HANDLING OF PERSONNEL NUMBERS, KRIANGSAK NOTED THAT DEPARTURE OF PERSONNEL ASSOCIATED WITH F-111'S , B-52'S AND UBON CLOSURE FELL SHORT OF 7500. HE ASKED WHETHER ANY OTHER UNITS WOULD BE INVOLVED. WE REPLIED THAT WE WERE NOT YET INSTRUCTED, BUT SPECULATED THAT DIFFERENCE MIGHT BE MADE UP THROUGH ABOLISHING SPACES ALREADY VACANT IN THAILAND. KRIANGSAK EXPRESSED NO OBJECTION TO THIS, AND TOOK POSITION THAT REDUCTION OF 7500 SPACES COULD BE ANNOUNCED WITHOUT FURTHER BREAKDOWN.
- 5. COMMENT: JUNE 2 MEETING WILL RESULT IN PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING IMPENDING DEPARTURE OF B-52'S AND F-111'S AND CLOSURE OF UBON. WE WILL SEEK TO LAY ON MEDIA VISIT FOR EARLIEST PRACTICABLE DATE THEREAFTER. WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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To: STATE

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